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Revisions to the Academic Dress of the University of Malta (L-Università ta' Malta)

By Nicholas Groves

Those members who are also members of the Yahoo academic dress group will recall that, in September 2008, a competition was announced to design robes for the University of Malta.¹ Specifically, it was to submit designs for a gown for masters, and a gown and hood for the PhD. Hats were included, but the styles were specified, so there was little scope for innovation. The terms of the competition were as follows:

FOUNDATION DAY INTERNATIONAL DESIGN COMPETITION

The University of Malta invites designers, both in Malta and from overseas, to participate in a competition to design a gown and cap for both its Masters and its Ph.D. graduands. Designers may submit designs for one or both gowns and caps.

The design of the gown for the Masters and Ph.D. graduands must be distinctly different from the undergraduate and graduate gowns currently in use and incorporate the following:

- Elements of the University Crest (as below)
- Front opening (but without a zipper)
- $\frac{3}{4}$ or full length
- Quality material (please specify material proposed)
- The Ph.D. gown shall have a separate or an attached hood

The Ph.D. gown should, preferably, be a variant of the Masters gown.

The design for the Masters cap should be in the style of a 'trencher' or 'mortarboard' style.

The design for the Ph.D. cap should be in the style of a 'biretta' with four horns.

The designs must be approved by Senate, which reserves the right not to accept any of the submissions if it feels they are not appropriate or in some way do not reflect the corporate image of the University of Malta. Senate also reserves the right to choose the design of its Masters degree gown of one designer and the Ph.D. design of another. All designs must reach the Director, Communications & Alumni Relations Office by 1st December 2008. The winner/s of this competition will receive the sum of €2000 (Lm858.60) for each chosen design.

Initial enquiries

I decided to enter, and made some enquiries as to the dress currently in use. The information given in the various editions of Haycraft is minimal: merely that the hoods are of

¹ Message no. 24577, 10 Sept. 2008. I have since attempted to contact the original poster via the group, but with no luck. I assume he is or was a member of staff at the University, but as his Yahoo identity was merely 'Joe', without a surname I cannot go further.



FIG. 1 Robes currently in use. The pale blue signifies the Faculty of Economics.

‘simple shape’ (not even whether Oxford plain [s1] or Burgon [s2], or indeed something else), lined with various shades of watered silk depending on the faculty. Smith’s book was, unusually, little better: ‘a gown made of black stuff’; hoods in ‘a shape resembling Oxford simple shape’. I e-mailed the University, and received a picture of a graduate, wearing what looked suspiciously like a black American-style high school graduation gown, with a black hood of full shape, with rounded cape, lined and bound over—except for the base of the cape—for two inches with satin, not watered silk. (Fig. 1.) A little further digging on the University’s website² revealed that the faculty colours as given in Haycraft and Smith have since been revised.

Doctor of Philosophy gown

This at least gave me some starting points. I decided, as the PhD gown was to be a variant of the masters’ gown, to use the Oxford doctors’ dress robe pattern [d2], with bell sleeves, as that is the common European gown. I also knew from Smith that the other doctors at Malta wore black gowns, so that settled the colour of the PhD gown, and the masters’ would be black anyway. The terms stated that ‘Quality material’ was to be used. Given Malta’s climate,³ a traditional wool cloth was clearly not appropriate, and something much lighter was required, but which would hang and drape well. My own PhD robes had recently been made of a wool-polyester panama,

which has just these qualities, and this seemed to be the answer for both gowns.⁴ Both would be worn open, in the UK style.

Then came the difficult part: ‘customizing’ them. Incorporating ‘elements of the University crest’⁵ was going to be tricky, as the arms are a mixture of the very simple (the divisions of the shield) and the very fiddly (the charges). (Fig. 2.)

Obviously, to use the cross and crescents would not be possible, so using the lower part of the shield, I decided to split the PhD gown facings lengthwise white and red. The gown has five-inch facings, with white on the outer edge, and red on the inner. Going on the

² <http://www.um.edu.mt/alumni/mementos/lapelpins>

³ Around 17°C in November, when the graduations are usually held.

⁴ And, having now been to a graduation in Malta, they were perfectly comfortable over a jacket. They also survived a three-hour flight packed in a suitcase without creasing.

⁵ For heraldically inclined persons, yes, I know they mean the arms! And also that ‘white’ should be ‘silver’ in what follows. The shield is divided white and red which are the arms of Malta; the chief has the arms of the Order (red, a white cross) quartered with those of Grand Master Manoel Pinto de Fonseca (white, five red crescents), who raised the original College (fnd 1592) to University status in 1769. Where English practice would impale the arms of office, Maltese heraldry quarters them instead.

information in Smith, Haycraft, etc, I specified watered silk.⁶ The form of the arms as supplied (see Fig. 2) has a baroque 'frame' of gold, and although this is not part of the blazon, I felt its inclusion would give a lift to the facings, and help to unify the two colours, so they are piped with gold along the outer edge and across the top. The gown is to be worn full (i.e., ankle) length.

As it was to be a doctoral gown, the sleeves also needed some decoration. I used a four-inch cuff, as I think this looks rather more elegant than the current Oxford-style full sleeve facing.⁷ A split cuff would have been unbearably fussy, so I decided to have them solely in red, which allowed them to pick up the red on the inner edge of the facings, again helping to unify the whole design. It was also partly a practical consideration, as white cuffs would get very grubby very quickly!

I decided also to add as an option the possibility of having the university arms embroidered in colour on a gold silk patch, sewn to the left facing at breast level: this was suggested by the Chancellor's robe which has, in addition to much gold lace and so on, the arms embroidered on both facings. The patch was a practical consideration, as it would be easier than embroidering the arms direct onto the facings, and a gold patch allowed it to be placed over both colours, and picked up the gold piping.

Master's gown

The master's gown was much simpler. The submitted design had narrower facings (the usual two-inch ones), covered in black watered silk, and edged on the outer edge and across the top with a twisted red and white cord, and (again, optionally) with the arms in colour on a black silk patch on the left facing. The sleeves were left plain. It is to be worn three-quarter (i.e., mid-calf) length.

Hoods

The PhD hood was not a problem, as I already had an idea. Some years ago, I recovered the specification of the original hood of St Bees College, Cumberland, in use from 1816 until 1866. This was black, with a vertically split lining of white and red, and could be made in either the simple or the full shape (Fig. 3). It seemed that this was exactly what was required,



FIG. 2 The arms of the University of Malta.

⁶ That is, in Haycraft 1972 and Smith. Haycraft 1948 does not say the hoods have watered silk linings, although Baty (1934) does, so it would be interesting to know where that came from. Baty says he was provided with 'coloured illustrations' as well as verbal descriptions, which include the words: 'hood lined with watered silk of ... yellow and green.' (Baty, p 67.) There is some work to be done on the history of the robes: to find out why and when the hood shape appears to have changed from simple to full; when the watered silk was introduced, and replaced by satin; and why the binding on the cape stops short—and indeed when the scheme was introduced.

⁷ The cuff is, of course, the form the Oxford robe took in the later C17/early C18, and has been revived by several of the post-1992 universities in these islands. It has always been used by the Cambridge MusD.



FIG. 3 The original St Bees hood, in Cambridge [f1] full shape. This is a modern version, made for the author by Canon Ambrose Southward, FBS.

as the divided lining picked up the split lower part of the shield, and thus the gown facings, and also of course the Maltese flag, which is half white and half red.⁸ The shape was clearly to be a full shape with rounded cape as in the picture supplied:⁹ I decided on the Durham doctors [f4] as the nearest. So, it was to be made in black panama to match the gown, with a divided lining of white and red watered silk, and then piped on all edges with the same gold as the gown facings—partly to unify it with the gown in front, partly to form a ‘frame’ for the black hood on the black gown, and also to prevent it being the St Bees hood.¹⁰ The neckband is black lined black, piped gold.

Hats

The hats were no bother. The Masters were given a standard black square cap, as specified; the four-vaaned doctoral biretta was to be made in black watered silk, with a tuft of mixed red and white threads.

Outcome

I submitted all this to the University by the closing date (1 December 2008), and mentally put it to one side. Nothing happened; I assumed the competition had been won. I was thus somewhat surprised to receive a letter from the University, signed by Patricia Camilleri, the director of Communications and Alumni Relations, in February 2010 saying that ‘The adjudicating committee

of the Gowns Design Competition feels that your designs are amongst the most appropriate that have been submitted.’ As will be understood from the wording, I was not quite sure if I had won outright, or was merely on a shortlist. However, the letter went on to say that they wished to see a made-up version of both the gowns and the hood, which sounded more promising, and they asked me to send an estimate for getting this done in the UK, or to send ‘very detailed instructions’ to enable them to have them made up in Malta. With my contacts with robemakers here, it obviously made sense to have them made in England, where we would be using the same technical terms, and so I approached Nick Shipp at Ede & Ra-

8 Though omitting the George Cross! UK universities currently using a vertically split lining are City (for its doctors, maroon and gold); Roehampton (all degrees, blue and red); and some degrees at Glasgow (agriculture, green and blue; fine art, green and white; design, blue and saffron).

9 Where did Haycraft et al. get their simple shape from, other than following each other? Archive pictures on the University’s website, going back to 1937, <http://www.um.edu.mt/alumni/alumnistories> show that a full hood has consistently been in use. The University is not listed in the second (1924) edition of Haycraft, but is in the fourth (1948), where it is bizarrely listed under the British Isles, after the Irish universities (p. 29), and not with Canada, India, etc. The fifth (1972) edition has it under ‘Universities of the Continent’.

10 Although that used plain silk lining, and has not been used anyway for 145 years!



FIG. 4 Example of flanged cord. (This version is used by Roehampton.)

venscroft. Both Nick and Patricia have been closely involved in the subsequent revisions.

The first hitch soon occurred, and concerned the cord binding on the masters' gown. As twisted cords are used on several hoods these days—notably the diploma hoods for London (red, white, blue), Wales (maroon, blue, gold), and all degrees at Roehampton (red, blue, yellow; see Fig. 4)—I had not thought this would be a problem. But apparently these cords are specially manufactured with a 'flange' of cloth, which enables them to be sewn in easily.

Alas, a red and white one in this style did not exist, and the minimum order to have some made would be several thousand yards! An ordinary cord could be sewn on manually, but that would escalate the cost. In addition to this, the production department advised us that if we went down that route, once the gowns had been worn and cleaned a few times, the different shrinkage rates would warp the facings, so an alternative had to be thought up. The gold piping used on the PhD was no problem, as that has the necessary 'flange', and is used at Keele.¹¹ They also use a red piping,¹² so I replaced the twisted cord with red piping round the facing, and a quarter-inch white ribbon along the facing edge next to the piping. This was accepted by the University, and has actually proved to be a more pleasing design than the cord.

After a certain amount of delay, the various permissions came through from the Finance Department at Malta, and the robes were made up. Once they were done, I went over to E&R to see them before they were sent off to Malta. The PhD robe can be seen in Figure 6.¹³ The hood is in Figure 7, and the way the gold piping outlines the hood is very pleasing.



FIG. 5 The master's gown from the front.

¹¹ They use it on all hoods except the bachelors' and PhD, and on the higher doctors' robe. It is not in fact an actual cord: there is a cord-like core, which is then wrapped round with silk.

¹² This is used on the bachelors' hood.

¹³ Figs 5–7 and 11 are used by permission of the University of Malta. They were taken on the Msida campus.



FIG. 6 The PhD robe from the front.



FIG. 7 PhD robe with hood. (The lining is watered.)



FIG. 8 Master's gown with MA hood.

Although the prototypes were made up with the armorial patches on, it was in the end decided not to use them; I was not over-happy about them in any case.

The masters' gown is in Figure 5, showing the revised version of the facing trim.

The doctoral biretta came to nothing: the price was prohibitive, and the University already has a stock of plain ones, which will continue to be used, although I did suggest that they could still acquire some red and white tufts for them.¹⁴

New masters' hoods

The robes duly arrived in Malta at the start of November. Patricia said she and her colleagues were very pleased with them, and that they were to be shown to Senate for approval. I heard no more until just after Christmas, when Patricia e-mailed me to say that although the robes had still not been shown to Senate, it had become clear that the standard of the new gowns was going to put the original masters' hoods, which they had intended to continue using, in a bad light. An exchange of e-mails with Patricia that day resulted in a design for a set of faculty-specific hoods for the masters.¹⁵ Patricia suggested that, as some faculties use two colours, the PhD hood gave an ideal model, and that the masters' hoods be piped with the same red as is used on the gown, instead of gold, thus making clear the difference in status. The hoods are black, in the same full shape as the PhD, and lined with plain silk¹⁶ in the colour or colours of the relevant faculty: where a faculty has two colours (as Built Environment, green and yellow), the lining is divided as in the PhD hood. We both felt that it would be desirable for the faculty to be identifiable from the front, and so the neckbands were to be bound with the faculty colour(s), as the current hoods are, but Senate was not over-happy with this, so a revised version with the red piping continued onto the neckbands was submitted. (See Fig. 5, showing the neckband from the front, and Fig. 8 for the MA hood.)

Final confirmation that the PhD robes had been approved came on 10 May 2011. While visiting friends in Malta in early September 2011, I included a visit to the University, with photo-shoot for publicity, when the Registrar made a formal presentation (Fig. 11). Confirmation of the masters' gowns and hoods followed on 28 September.

Graduation 2011

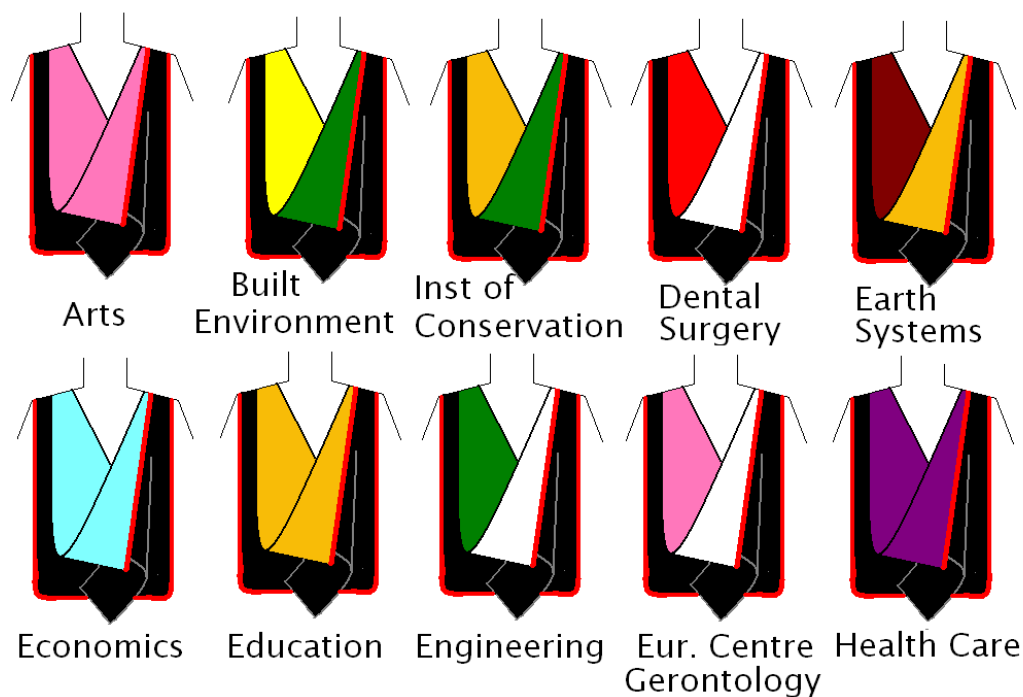
In November 2011 I returned to Malta to attend the first of that year's graduation ceremonies, for masters and PhDs in the Faculty of Arts, on 18 November, at which the PhD robes were worn for the first time.¹⁷ The masters' gowns and hoods will be gradually phased in

¹⁴ I did have a couple made, and took one over with me in September 2011, so that it can form part of the archive at the University.

¹⁵ I.e., the lining colour depends on the faculty in which the degree is awarded, not on the degree title.

¹⁶ Or acceptable artificial substitute. This also marks them out as of different status.

¹⁷ An e-mail from Patricia Camilleri, 22 October 2011, says that 'Quite a few of our Ph.D. (new and old) are ordering their gowns.' Certainly the first seven recipients, who graduated on 18 November 2011, were extremely pleased with the robes. As a graduate myself, and thus part of the international community of scholars, I was invited to robe and join the academic procession. The robes of several other UK universities were worn by members of the teaching staff, though mine was the only Wales outfit.



from 2011. As a result of attending the graduation, a little further information came to light. Several of the graduands wore a version of the Arts hood constructed on the lines of a London master's hood—[f3] black lined and bound on all edges $\frac{1}{4}$ " pink.¹⁸ These were invariably teamed with a black standard-pattern bachelor's gown [b1], and these appear to be supplied by a Maltese firm called Bortex. The shades of pink used were various: the older hoods and those supplied by Bortex were lined with a strong pink, probably Liverpool Arts 'apple-blossom', while the newer ones ranged from that to almost white.¹⁹ Sitting in the front row, as the graduands passed I was able to see that the hood shapes also exhibited minor variations, some having a square-ended liripipe, while others had the Dublin-style [f2], with one corner rounded off, but all had rounded capes. There were about six different gowns used, in addition to the [b1] referred to above, and they were used indiscriminately, but they all had open sleeves.²⁰ Until the new masters' robes come in next year, the practice is that the same robes are worn by BAs and MAs (and likewise other faculties).²¹

A brief account of the actual admission itself follows: there were also speeches and musical interludes. First, the masters. (MA; MA in Linguistics; MA in Hospitaller Studies; Master in Interpreting; Master in Translation; Master in Contemporary Diplomacy; Mas-

18 Plain-weave, not watered.

19 Examination of recent graduation photographs reveals the same is true of other faculties, with widely differing shades of the specified colour.

20 All basically of a BA style.

21 I am grateful to Robert Govus, BA(Melit), MA(Wales), for this information.

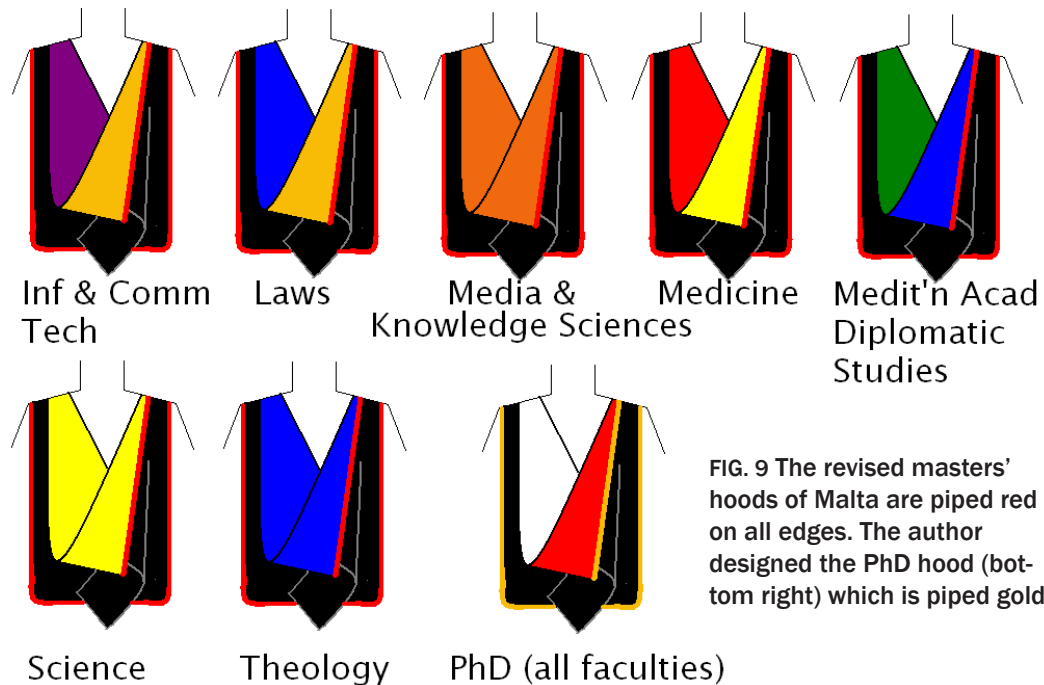


FIG. 9 The revised masters' hoods of Malta are piped red on all edges. The author designed the PhD hood (bottom right) which is piped gold.

ter of Maltese Studies).²² These all lined up down the centre of the church, wearing gown and hood. (All black lined pink, as they are all in the Faculty of Arts. Hoods are faculty-, and not degree-, specific.) The Dean read a Latin formula, and then each candidate went up to the Rector, who placed the square on their head (at which point they become MA), then moved across to the Chancellor, who handed them the diploma, then on to the Prime Minister and the Dean for gratulatory handshakes. (For small ceremonies, at which there are only a few candidates, they are robed in the same way as the doctors, which suggests that this was the original practice, and probably modified owing to increasing numbers: there were 97 masters admitted at this ceremony.)

The PhDs, of whom there were seven, went through much the same process, save that they came in wearing street clothes, and carrying robe, hood, and biretta, and a copy of their theses. The Rector admitted each one individually, in Latin, with the following formula, and as he did so, the Head Porter robed the candidate in his gown and hood:

Cape jam collatae tibi dignitatis ornamenta, et quid illa instituto majorum portendant intellege. Gesta sic togam hanc, ut norint omnes te in Doctorum collegium allectum esse.²³

²² I assume these have appropriate abbreviations (MInt? MCD? etc.), but I have been unable to discover what they are.

²³ 'Receive now the ornaments of the dignity conferred upon you, and understand what they signify by the ordinance of the Senate. Wear this gown, so that all may know you have been elected to the college of Doctors.' I am grateful to Patricia Camilleri, BA, MA (Melit), for providing the full text



FIG. 10 The author with the first seven PhD graduates to wear the new robes on graduation day at the Valletta campus, 18 November 2011. Despite the author's best efforts, the 'shawl' method of wearing the hoods was too ingrained to be altered.

An assistant porter was standing by, with the biretta on a silver plate; the biretta was then placed on the graduand's head:

*Sit tibi liberalis pileus hic, veluti ornamentum laureum, quo donabantur post certamen victores.*²⁴

The thesis was then put on the plate, and the new doctor put his hand on it, while the Rector said:

Librum hunc plenum sapientiae, clausum et reseratum, accipito, eumque ex edito scholae loco explicandi interpretandique tibi jus esse scito. Quantopere vero te de

of the formula, and to Derek Cook, BA (EAng), for assistance with the translation.

24 'Let this noble pileus be to you like the wreath of laurels, which was given to the victors after a contest.' (The notion of the PhD as a contest, or at least a marathon, has some appeal ...)



FIG. 11 The Registrar, Ms Veronica Grech, presents the author with his prize.



FIG. 12 The Vice Chancellor admits a graduand to his degree.

dignitate adepta in totius academici coetus nomine gratulamur, testetur tibi hic noster amplexus.²⁵

The new doctor then passed on to the Chancellor for the diploma (which includes the title of the thesis), the Prime Minister, and the Dean. Each gave them the double 'kiss' (*amplexus*) instead of a handshake. They then signed the *Liber Aureum*, which all doctors do. A worthy recognition of their work, and quite unlike the conveyor belt of too many UK institutions.

Further developments toward a coherent scheme

In further correspondence early in 2012, Patricia told me that she was attempting to get the whole scheme regularized and registered, not least as the robes were now being used by the Malta College of Arts, Science, and Technology (MCAST) for their graduations.²⁶ While there is historical precedent for this (e.g., several of the first north American universities used Oxford robes, and the Queen's (later, Royal) University of Ireland simply adopted those of Dublin, which had probably adopted the Oxford ones, too), this is not so acceptable today.

²⁵ 'Accept this book full of knowledge, closed and open, and know that you have the right to explain and interpret it from the lofty place of learning. How much indeed we, in the name of the whole university assembled [here], congratulate you on achieving this dignity, let our embrace testify to you.'

²⁶ MCAST was founded in 2001, and provides professional and vocational courses to diploma and first-degree level. (www.mcast.edu.mt) It awards its own degrees.

In the meantime, I had had further thoughts about bringing the bachelors' robes into line with the others. This was that they should wear the masters' gown without any decoration—i.e., a plain black [d2] gown, or possibly with white piping round the facings. The hoods would be the same as the masters', but with white piping in place of red. It transpired that the university had already decided to give the bachelors the plain gown, and my suggestion for their hoods has been noted, although to use the master's hoods without any piping would work equally well.

The other thing Patricia was anxious to regularize is the gown used by the LL.D and MD:

I am looking for a detailed description of the UoM academic dress. I know I read one somewhere—both for the undergraduate and the LL.D. & M.D. gowns. In the past there was definitely a distinction between the two but these last years a hotch potch of styles has been allowed to creep in. I would like to go back to how things were in the past with one style for the u/grads and a more ornate one for the LL.D.s & M.D.s + the Masters and the Ph.D. gowns. This will give us a chance to distance ourselves from the MCAST graduates.²⁷

I made a search in the 'usual sources'—not much came up, as of course Baty (1934) and Haycraft (4th edition, 1947, and 5th, 1972)²⁸ deal only with hoods; Smith's 1954 draft says simply 'a black stuff gown with loose open sleeves. Doctors wear a similar gown, but in black silk',²⁹ but the 1971 published version was more useful: 'DOCTORS wear a gown of the same pattern as that worn by the Vice-Chancellor and made from black silk'.³⁰ The 'Vice-Chancellor' (recte, Rector) and the Chancellor wear similar gowns, with large barrister-style sleeves, pleated and held with tapes and buttons, and with a flap collar (see Fig. 12). They are made from black damask, and ornamented with gold. Some of the graduands at the ceremony I attended had been wearing gowns of this pattern, but totally in black, so my conclusion is that this is the 'missing' LL.D and MD gown.³¹ It should be noted that the MD is a first degree,³² while the LL.D is a postgraduate professional doctorate, and is required in order to qualify as an advocate, magistrate, or judge in Malta. No moves have yet been made towards giving these two degrees revised robes, but one possibility would be to leave them with their historic gown and biretta, but to add a black hood, lined with the faculty colour(s)³³ in watered silk, and piped gold to mark their doctoral status.

27 E-mail, PC to NG, 18 Jan. 2012.

28 The University is not in the first and second editions of 1923 and 1924, nor does it figure in Wood's publications. A picture on the website of a 1937 graduation shows BA and BSc graduates in gowns and hoods, while another of LL.D graduates in 1920 shows them without robes.

29 P. 205. This Gestetnered document, passed on to me by Wippell after Hugh Smith's death, is now in the Society's archive. It differs in significant ways from the 1970 published version.

30 Smith and Sheard, 1971, p 452. Baty (p. 67) says they wear a 'handsome' black gown with black velvet facings.

31 This appears to be supported by a picture of MD graduates of 1937 on the university's website (<http://www.um.edu.mt/alumni/alumnistories/thomasanastasipace>).

32 Dentists, however, are awarded the BChD, and pharmacists the BPharm.

33 Red and yellow for Medicine; blue and gold for Laws.

There are two other doctorates, in Sacred Theology (SThD) and in Music (DMus). They are both obtainable by submission of supervised work, and appear to be assessed at PhD standard. Again, no moves have been made to alter their dress, but they should certainly wear the same gown as LL.D and MD. Suitable hoods, if required, would be black, lined with blue watered silk for SThD or pink watered silk for DMus (as music comes under Arts), and piped gold as the PhD hood – the watered silk and gold piping marking the higher status, as with PhD.

There is also a DLitt, which is the sole honorary degree, who currently wears the same black gown and biretta as other doctors. There are various ways in which the robes of this degree could be enhanced.

Conclusion

The upshot of all this will be that the University will have a distinct set of robes of its own, developed from the historic original. This has also been an interesting journey through the history of a system of academic dress which had become somewhat shambolic. It has not been possible to reinstate the original scheme, for, as will be seen from the tables below, it appears to have been in a state of permanent flux at best, and owing to the destruction of records in the war, deciding what it was is now almost impossible.

Appendix I

The full specification is as follows. It is stressed that this includes a number of suggestions to date, some of which have not been considered, let alone approved, but which would result in a coherent scheme. These are printed in italics.

Bachelors

- A black cloth gown with bell sleeves [d2].
- *A black cloth hood of Durham full shape [f4], lined with silk of the faculty colour(s). Where a faculty has two colours, the lining is split vertically. The neckband is black lined black. The hood and neckband could be piped white on all edges.* [Currently: a black hood of Durham shape [f4], lined and bound 2" faculty colour. Where a faculty has two colours, the second is applied as a 2" binding on the cowl.]
- A black square cap.

*Masters and Licentiates*³⁴

- A black cloth gown with bell sleeves [d2]. The facings are covered with black watered silk, bordered on the outer edge with 1/4" white ribbon, and piped on that edge and along the top with red.
- A black cloth hood of Durham full shape [f4], lined with silk of the faculty colour(s), and piped red on all edges. Where a faculty has two colours, the lining is split vertically. The neckband is black lined black, and piped red on both edges.
- Masters wear a black square cap; licentiates wear a black biretta with three vanes, and a black tuft.

Doctors of Medicine (MD) and of Laws (LL.D)

- A black cloth gown with bell sleeves [d2], and a flap collar. The sleeves are gathered at the front into broad pleats, and held by four black ribbons and buttons. (This gown is of the same pattern as that for the Rector.)
- *A black cloth hood of Durham full shape [f4], and piped on all edges with gold. The watered silk lining is split vertically: for MD red on the wearer's left shoulder, and yellow on the right; for LL.D it is mid-blue on the wearer's left shoulder, and gold on the right. The neckband for both is black lined black, and piped gold on both edges.* [Currently: no hood]
- A black watered silk biretta with four vanes, and a black tuft.

Doctors of Philosophy (PhD)

- A black cloth gown with bell sleeves [d2]. The facings are covered with red and white watered silk, split vertically, white on the outer edges, and piped with gold. The sleeves have 4" cuffs of red watered silk.
- A black cloth hood of Durham full shape [f4], the lining split vertically, white on the wearer's left shoulder, red on the right, and piped on all edges with gold. The neckband is black lined black, and piped gold on both edges.

³⁴ One Licentiate is awarded, in Theology: SThL. There is also an MPhil, which wears the relevant faculty hood.

- A black watered silk biretta with four vanes, and a black tuft.

Doctors of Theology (SThD) and of Music (DMus); Doctors of Letters (DLitt)³⁵

- A black gown of the same pattern as for LL.D and MD.
 - A black watered silk biretta with four vanes.
 - *A black cloth hood of Durham full shape [f4], and piped on all edges with gold. The lining is blue watered silk (SThD) or pink watered silk (DMus). The neckband for both is black lined black, and piped gold on both edges. [Currently: no hood]*
- A hood for the DLitt needs consideration.

Undergraduate and postgraduate certificates and diplomas

These groups have (at present) no robes.

Faculty Colours

Faculty colours in use at 2011: these may be compared with the lists in Smith, Haycraft, etc., below in Appendix II. The colour is decided by the faculty of study, not by the degree title: thus a BA in history wears pink, but a BA in Theology wears mid-blue, as does the BD. Where two colours are specified, the first-named goes on the wearer's left shoulder.

Faculty of Arts: pink.

Faculty of Laws³⁶: mid-blue and gold

Faculty of Economics, Management, and Accountancy: light blue.

Faculty of Education: old gold.

Faculty of Science: yellow.

Faculty of Theology: mid-blue.

Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences: orange.³⁷

Institute of Health Care: purple.

Faculty of Medicine and Surgery: red and yellow.

Faculty of Dental Surgery: red and white.³⁸

European Centre for Gerontology: pink and white.

Faculty of the Built Environment: yellow and green.

Institute of Conservation & Management of Cultural Heritage: gold and green.

Faculty of Information and Communications Technology: purple and gold.

Institute of Earth Systems: maroon and gold.³⁹

Faculty of Engineering: green and white.

Mediterranean Academy for Diplomatic Studies: green and mid-blue.

All faculties, PhD: white and red watered.

³⁵ The DLitt is awarded honoris causa only.

³⁶ Laws was originally purple (see tables at end); at some point it came to share Arts pink, because the prerequisite for the LL.D was a BA in Laws and Humanistic Studies. This was replaced in 2012 by an LL.B, with a corresponding assignment to Law of its own colours.

³⁷ Was the Centre for Communication Technology

³⁸ This reverses the PhD lining, which is white and red, and is also watered, whereas these are plain.

³⁹ Was Institute of Agriculture.

Appendix II

Hoods and faculty colours as given in the standard published sources.

Degree/ Faculty	Baty ¹ 1934	Haycraft ² 1948	Smith ³ 1971	Haycraft ⁴ 1972
BA	Black lined pink	Black lined purple	Black lined pink	Black lined pink
MA	Not listed	Not listed	Not listed	Pink lined pink
LL.B	Not listed	Black lined blue	Blue	Black lined purple
LL.D	<i>not listed</i>	<i>not listed</i>	<i>no hood</i>	<i>no hood</i>
BLitt	<i>not listed</i>	black lined pink	<i>not listed</i>	black lined pink
BSc	black lined gold	black lined yellow	yellow	black lined yellow
MB,BCh	<i>not listed</i>	black lined crimson	<i>not listed</i>	<i>no longer awarded</i>
MD	<i>not listed</i>	<i>not listed</i>	<i>no hood</i>	<i>no hood</i>
BCanL	purple lined blue	black lined purple bordered blue	purple bordered blue	black lined purple bordered blue
BAEng	green lined gold (BEng)	black lined yellow bordered green	white bordered green	<i>not listed</i>
BSc(Eng)	<i>not listed</i>	<i>not listed</i>	<i>not listed</i>	black lined green and white
MSc(Eng)	<i>not listed</i>	<i>not listed</i>	green bordered yellow	green lined green bordered white
BD	<i>not listed</i>	<i>not listed</i>	blue	black lined blue
SThL	<i>not listed</i>	<i>not listed</i>	white bordered blue	black lined blue and white
SThD/DD	<i>not listed</i>	<i>not listed</i>	<i>no hood</i>	<i>no hood</i>
BArch	<i>not listed</i>	<i>not listed</i>	green bordered white	black lined white bordered green
MArch	<i>not listed</i>	<i>not listed</i>	yellow bordered green	green lined green bordered yellow
Economics⁵	<i>not listed</i>	<i>not listed</i>	<i>not listed</i>	black lined yellow bordered white
Dental Surgery	<i>not listed</i>	<i>not listed</i>	<i>not listed</i>	black lined red bordered white
Commerce	<i>not listed</i>	<i>not listed</i>	<i>not listed</i>	black lined white bordered yellow
Education	<i>not listed</i>	<i>not listed</i>	<i>not listed</i>	black lined pink bordered white
Pharmacy	<i>not listed</i>	<i>not listed</i>	<i>not listed</i>	black lined red bordered yellow



FIG. 13 The author, left, and Dr Lawrence Gonzi, prime minister of Malta, at the graduation ceremony. Some MA hoods can be seen behind them.

1 Thomas Baty, *Academic Colours* (Tokyo: Kenkyusha Press, 1934).

2 Frank W. Haycraft, *The Degrees and Hoods of the World's Universities and Colleges*, 4th edn, revised and enlarged by E. W. Scobie Stringer (Cheshunt: privately printed by Cheshunt Press, 1948)

3 Hugh Smith, assisted by Kevin Sheard, *Academic Dress and Insignia of the World*, 3 vols (Cape Town: A A. Balkema, 1970).

4 Frank W. Haycraft, *The Degrees and Hoods of the World's Universities and Colleges*, 5th edn, revised and enlarged by Frederick R. S. Rogers, Charles A. H. Franklyn, George W. Shaw and Hugh Alexander Boyd (Lewes: privately printed by W. E. Baxter, Ltd, 1972).

5 For some reason, Haycraft stops listing the degrees and gives merely the colours for these four faculties.